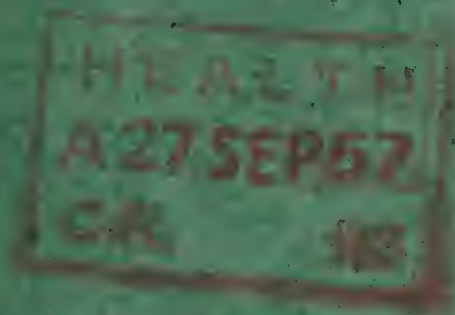


Lib (V)
NORTHWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health



for the Year Ended 31st December
1956

NORTHWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health



for the Year Ended 31st December
. . . 1956 . . .

NORTHWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEALTH REPORT FOR 1956

To the Chairman and Members of the Northwich Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the following statement of essential matters affecting the Public Health of the District during the year 1956.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	...	...	...	...	...	57017 acres
Population—Registrar-General's latest estimate of population	...	...	...	...	...	40100
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1956	...	...	...	...	...	12500
Rateable Value (1956)	...	...	...	...	...	£361724
Sum represented by Penny Rate (1955/6)	...	...	...	...	...	£869

The following extracts from vital statistics of the year relate to net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers by the Registrar-General.

Live Births—	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	785	397	388
Illegitimate	20	10	10
Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population			20.07
After adjustment by the Comparability Factor			19.06
Still Births—	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	23	9	14
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births			27.77
	Total	Male	Female
Deaths	409	232	177
Death rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population			10.20
After adjustment by the Comparability Factor			12.04
Death rate of infants under one year of age—			
All infants per 1000 live births			26.09
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births			25.48
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births			50.00

The following table compares the main statistics for 1956 with the years 1944—1955 :

Year	Population	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Death Rate	No. of Deaths from Cancer	No. of Deaths from Tuberculosis
1944	28,730	18.16	10.47	30.65	52	14
1945	28,460	17.39	11.59	50.50	55	18
1946	29,640	18.04	11.57	28.03	48	13
1947	30,650	20.22	11.97	29.03	56	5
1948	31,790	18.71	10.09	23.56	42	4
1949	32,660	18.21	9.76	42.01	70	5
1950	34,970	19.98	11.55	37.19	72	11
1951	38,310	20.75	11.30	32.70	66	7
1952	40,440	19.98	9.59	28.46	61	7
1953	41,920	21.18	8.23	29.28	47	3
1954	42,720	19.19	8.56	19.51	68	3
1955	39,220	18.02	9.68	22.63	64	2
1956	40,100	20.07	10.20	26.09	72	5

CAUSES OF DEATH—1956

(Taken from the Registrar-General's Tables)

	M	F	T
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	3	2	5
2. Tuberculosis, other forms of	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	1	—	1
6. Meningococcal infection	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	1	—	1
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	4	5
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	14	—	14
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	3	3
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	4	4
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	22	24	46
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	—	1
16. Diabetes	—	—	—
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	31	38	69
18. Coronary disease, angina	38	13	51
19. Hypertension with heart disease	2	8	10
20. Other heart diseases	41	30	71
21. Other circulatory diseases	8	11	19
22. Influenza	4	—	4
23. Pneumonia	6	3	9
24. Bronchitis	16	5	21
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	2	1	3

26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	3	—	3
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	—	2	2
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	5	4	9
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	—	—	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	—	1	1
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	2	3	5
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	19	16	35
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	2	—	2
34.	All other accidents	...	...	5	4	9
35.	Suicide	...	...	4	1	5
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	1	—	1
TOTAL				232	177	409

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(A) Provided by the District Council

(1) Staff—

W. S. Slater, M.B., CH.B., Medical Officer (Services shared with
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. of Health the other three Mid-
Hartford Hill Cheshire Districts and
Darwin Street the County Council).
Northwich, Ches.

Clerical Staff 1 person (Services shared with
(whole time) the other three Mid
Cheshire Districts).

J. S. Carrie, Cert. R.S.I., Chief Public (Northwich Rural
Cert. Meat & Food Inspec- Health District only).
tion, Cert. Sanitary Science Inspector
Cert. Smoke Inspection & Whitehall
Boilerhouse Management, Hartford
Hon. Cert. Hygiene, R.I.
Public Health & Hygiene.

W. P. Musgrave, Additional — do —
Cert. R.S.I. Public Health
Inspector

B. Marsland, Cert. R.S.I. Additional — do —
Cert. Meat & Food Inspec- Public Health
tor, Cert. Sanitary Science. Inspeccor

H. W. Worsley Assistant — do —
Public Health
Inspector

Miss. M. Walters Clerical — do —

Miss J. Reid Assistant
Clerical — do —
Assistant

(2) Laboratory Facilities—

The Public Health Laboratory Services in Manchester, which are provided free of charge to the Northwich Rural District Council, proved adequate during the year. In addition, this service has co-operated in the transport of the samples from this area. Details of the samples and specimens are given later in the report.

(3) Environmental Services—

Details of the other Services, e.g., Sanitary and Housing Inspections, Food Examinations, etc., provided by the Northwich Rural District Council are recorded later in this report.

(B) Isolation Hospital Services

After March 31st, 1955, Davenham Isolation Hospital discontinued the admittance and treatment of cases of Infectious Diseases, as accommodation was required for a Maternity Unit. This conversion, of course, necessitated the transport of Infectious cases requiring hospital treatment to hospitals some miles away from their homes. It is, however, very gratifying to know that the Hospital still admits from the area a number of elderly chronic sick patients as well as the maternity cases.

(C) Provided by the County Council

The Cheshire County Council have officers discharging duties in the Northwich Rural area under the following services :

School Medical, Maternity and Child Welfare, including Milk Food Sales, Tuberculosis, School Dental, Health Visiting, Weights and Measures Inspection, Specialist Services, e.g., Orthopaedic Ophthalmic, Paediatric, Home and Domiciliary Midwifery Services, Speech Therapy, Residential and Temporary Accommodation under the County Welfare Services, etc.

In addition the Mid-Cheshire Divisional Health Committee (under the auspices of the County Council) provided the following services—

(a) Vaccination and Immunisation Schemes.

The work done during the year 1956 in the Northwich Rural District is detailed as follows :

Vaccination against Smallpox :

Pre-School Children	...	...	...	246
School Children	...	...	...	18
Adults	...	...	...	59

Diphtheria Immunisation :

Pre-School Children	...	...	...	46
School Children	...	...	...	31
Re-Immunised	...	...	...	338

Whooping Cough Immunisation :

Pre-School Children	...	...	...	18
School Children	...	...	...	3

Combined Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Immunisation :

Pre-School Children	...	...	...	397
School Children	...	...	...	13

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis :

It is with very great satisfaction that I am able to report the commencement during May, 1956 of the scheme for the vaccination of children born between 1947/54 against Poliomyelitis, a disease which can be one of the most crippling.

Although only a limited amount of vaccine was available to treat about 10% of those children whose parents had consented to the treatment, a successful start was made in May, 1956 and by the end of the year, 281 Rural children had completed their course of protective treatment.

The interest shown by the Rural parents in this new and somewhat untried field of preventive inoculation during 1956 can be summarised as follows :

Approximate number of Consent Cards

distributed to Rural parents	...	...	6400
Number of consents received	...	...	2580
(i.e.—40% response)			

(b) Sitting Case Car and Ambulance Service :

The service in the area continued to deal with Northwich Rural patients expeditiously and without serious complaint throughout the year.

(c) Prevention of Illness—Care and After Care.

Nursing requisities and after-care equipment were loaned for the use of the sick and needy in a number of homes during the year.

(d) Domestic Help Service :

Domestic Helps have been provided during 1956 in 83 households in the Rural District. The kind of cases assisted included old age, confinement, etc.

SECTION C**SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA****Water Supplies :**

During the year the Mid and South East Cheshire Water Board have carried out several short main extensions to supply new housing development.

Water Samples :

The Water Board has submitted to me for information, 81 copies of the Analyst's Reports on samples of water taken in the Northwich Rural District, all of which were reported upon as satisfactory.

In addition, the Public Health Department has taken 14 samples of water and submitted them to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. 11 samples proved to be satisfactory and 3 unsatisfactory. The unsatisfactory reports were in connection with the following properties :

	Action taken :-
8 Eaton Road, Tarporley	Re-sampled. Satisfactory.
Marbury Lodge, Marbury.	Private supply—now connected to water mains.
Lion Cottage, Rushton.	Tank cleansed.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal :

The following statement, for which I am indebted to Mr. J. B. Birtwistle, the Engineer and Surveyor of the Council, sets out in some detail the main drainage schemes of the Council during 1956.

“ Delamere Area—The scheme for the drainage of the Station Road area of Delamere and the Chester Road area of Oakmere adjoining the Abbey Arms and Bowyers Waste was completed during the latter part of 1955, and during 1956 the properties adjoining the new sewers have slowly been connected to these.

Barnton—In connection with the new Sewage Disposal Works at Riverside work proceeded throughout the year, including piling and commencement of construction for the reinforced concrete settling tanks. Completion of the work was, however, delayed because of the additional works of construction required in connection with the settling tanks.

Weaverham—Preparation of the scheme to provide additional Sludge Drying Bed accommodation at the Weaverham (Sandy Lane) Sewage Disposal Works was proceeded with, including investigation and development of a scheme to provide for heated sludge digestion.

Wincham—During the year detailed plans, etc., were completed in respect of proposals to provide a new sewage system and new sewage disposal works to serve the Higher Wincham area. The Council were not successful, however, in receiving approval to proceed with the actual construction of the works and further investigations took place in support of the Council's wish to proceed immediately with the construction of the works.

Comberbach—The Council agreed that a scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal should be prepared for the Parish of Comberbach, and survey works, preparation of plans, etc., proceeded during the year.

Acton—A scheme of sewerage and provision of new sewage disposal works was prepared during the course of the year for the Parish of Acton, and reached the stage when it was ready to submit to the Cheshire County Council for their consideration.

Allostock—During the year the Congleton Rural Council received approval from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government to proceed with the construction of a sewerage system and sewage disposal works for the Parish of Goostrey. Immediately adjoining the Goostrey/Allostock Parish Boundaries the Council have quite a number of properties in Harrison Drive, Newplatt Lane area, needing main sewerage facilities, and the Council agreed therefore, that a scheme should be prepared providing for main sewerage to the Harrison Drive/Newplatt Lane area of Allostock, which is to connect up to the Congleton Rural Council's sewerage system serving the Parish of Goostrey. This scheme was prepared in the latter part of the year and reached the stage when it was ready for submission to the County Council.

Anderton—During the course of the year a scheme to provide for main sewerage to develop part of the Parish of Anderton was proceeded with. This provides for the sewerage from this area to be connected to the sewerage system serving the Gunnersclough area of Barnton. The scheme reached an advanced stage, was approved by the County Council, and submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. In due course, an Inquiry will be held.

Lach Dennis—The Common Lane area of Lach Dennis was proved to be a very popular area from the standpoint of private development. The Council agreed with the preparation of a scheme which would enable this area and other existing properties along the Green at Lach Dennis to be sewered to the site of the newly constructed Sewage Disposal Works constructed by the Council to serve eight houses erected at the Green. The development of this scheme proceeded during the year and reached the stage when it was ready for submission to the County Council.

General :

The Council's housing development has slowed down considerably but in connection with a small number of houses erected in various Parishes additional short lengths of foul sewer and surface water drains have been laid. The further housing development, of course, causes increased flow to the various Sewage Disposal Works."

Under the following headings, Mr. J. S. Carrie, the Chief Public Health Inspector, reports as follows :

Closet Conversion :

During the year, 3 conversions have been carried out under the scheme and the appropriate Grants paid.

Public Cleansing Services :

The Council operates a direct labour service throughout its area ; the collection cycle being fortnightly for house-refuse and weekly for nightsoil. The Scavenging Fleet consists of the following vehicles :

1 Bedford	1 Calldozer
2 Nightsoil and Cesspool Emptiers	3 Dennis Side Loaders
2 Dennis Paxits	1 S. & D. Freighter (stand-by)

The labour force employed consists of :

1 General Foreman	8 Drivers
1 Calldozer Operator	19 Scavenging Labourers

During the year, 4010 loads of refuse were removed and disposed of by controlled tipping. The Calldozer used in connection with this work is proving very satisfactory. 418 cesspools and septic tanks were pumped and cleansed by the Cesspool Emptiers and a weekly nightsoil service was maintained.

Salvage of Waste Materials :

The Section still continues to increase. The income from sales amounted to £3474. The following materials were salvaged and disposed of :

	Tons	cwt	qrs	lbs
Paper	372	3	2	—
Scrap Metals ...	—	—	3	16
Textiles	4	8	3	9

Destruction of Rats and Mice :

The Council employed one wholetime Rodent Operative and he has carried out treatment of 395 premises involving 1,144 operational vists. In addition he has operated, with aid of one of the Assistant Public Health Inspectors, the baiting of all the Council's sewers and sewage works and this involved the baiting of 578 manholes. The Council received the appropriate grants in this connection from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The Council operated a system of Contracts and had an income of £285. Isolated Clearances were also carried out for which a sum of £40 was received. It should be mentioned for information that the Council operated a free service for the deratisation of domestic dwellings.

Swimming Baths and Pools :

There are no Public Swimming Baths in the Council's district. During the year the following private baths have been in use :—

Fourways Cafe, Oakmere.
I.C.I. Swimming Pool, Acton.
I.C.I. Swmming Pool, Marbury Hall Park.

During the course of the year 3 samples were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination, with the following results :—

4.7.56	Sample of swimming bath water taken from Marbury Hall.	Satisfactory
15.8.56	Sample of swimming bath water taken from Fourways, Oakmere.	Unsatisfactory
5.9.56	Sample of swimming bath water taken from Fourways, Oakmere.	Satisfactory

Common Lodging Houses :

There are no Lodging Houses in the Rural District.

Camping Sites :

The following Caravan Sites were in operation throughout the Council's district during the year :—

1. W. Mullin, Woodbine Cottage, Acton Bridge.
2. F. Gore, Always Filling Station, Allostock.
3. S. Worth, Sandy Lane, Allostock.
4. L. K. Beckwith, Off Stoney Lane, Delamere.
5. T. Lloyd, Off Stoney Lane, Delamere.
6. H. W. Booth, Millhouse Farm, Little Budworth.
7. Mrs. J. Clarke, Forest View Inn, Oakmere.
8. P. Foster, Mushroom Cottage, Oakmere.
9. Messrs. Harringtons Ltd., Chester Road, Oakmere.
10. S. Worth, Crabtree Caravans, Oakmere.
11. J. Hockenhull, Red Lion Inn, Little Budworth.
12. W. H. Brockley, The Plough Inn, Marton.
13. T. Dickenson, Lamb Cottage, Daleford Lane, Marton.
14. The Rev. T. Heywood, The Vicarage, Tarporley.
15. W. Pritchard, Valley Farm, Oakmere.
16. J. Lloyd, Boot Inn, Delamere.
17. W. Worthington, Byley Post Office, Byley.

In addition to the above, 18 licences were issued for the stationing of individual caravans in the district.

During the year the Public Health Department paid 112 visits to moveable dwellings.

Recreational Sites, Playing Fields and Village Halls :

The Department has given assistance in the various parishes during the course of the year, concerning proposals for the development of Recreational Sites, Playing Fields and Village Hall Sites.

Pollution of Rivers :

In this connection the Council is endeavouring to reduce pollution of various rivers and streams by proceeding with various sewerage schemes outlined earlier in this Report.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA

Statement of Inspections made and Notices Issued

Nature of Inspections made	Number	Informal Notices		Statutory Notices	
		Issued	Compl- ed with	Issued	Compl- ed with
GENERAL SANITATION					
Dwellinghouses—Housing Act ...	582	38	38	61	37
Dwellinghouses—Public Health Act	232	52	40	—	—
Overcrowding	17	—	2	—	—
Moveable Dwellings	112	2	2	—	—
Infectious Diseases	66	—	—	—	—
Disinfection of Premises	38	—	—	—	—
Disinfestation of Premises	139	—	5	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation	279	3	10	—	—
Drainage, Septic Tanks, etc.	733	14	23	—	—
Water Courses and Ditches	79	1	10	—	—
Water Supply	74	—	—	—	—
Keeping of Animals	31	1	2	—	—
Effluvium Nuisances	4	—	—	—	—
Refuse Collection	392	—	2	—	—
Rodent Control	1865	—	1	—	—
Provision of Dustbins	94	305	260	—	—
Refuse Disposal and Tips	482	1	1	—	—
Public Conveniences	5	—	—	—	—
Public Halls, etc.	4	—	2	—	—
Schools	53	—	—	—	—
Swimming Baths	7	—	—	—	—
Canal Boats	19	—	—	—	—
Smoke Observations	7	—	—	—	—
Hairdressing Establishments	12	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	130	—	1	—	—
Farms	75	—	—	—	—
Offensive Accumulations	31	4	6	—	—
FOOD HYGIENE					
Meat and Food Inspection	1397	—	—	—	—
Slaughterhouses	44	—	—	—	—
Butchers	45	6	—	—	—
Fishmongers	8	—	—	—	—
Grocers and Greengrocers	143	26	—	—	—
Shops, re By-Laws	9	—	—	—	—
Food Preparing Premises	44	3	1	—	—
Dairies	36	1	—	—	—
Ice-cream Manufacturers & Dealers	20	2	1	—	—
Bakehouses	27	5	—	—	—
Fried Fish Shops	13	2	1	—	—
Restaurants	5	3	1	—	—
Factory Canteens	16	1	1	—	—
School Canteens	70	—	—	—	—
Vehicles delivering Milk & Food	9	6	6	—	—
Licensed Premises	90	11	—	—	—
Miscellaneous Food Visits	27	1	1	—	—
Sweets and Tobacco (General)	3	6	—	—	—
FACTORIES					
Factories—Power	81	9	7	—	—
Factories—Non-Power	—	—	—	—	—
Building Sites	4	—	—	—	—
Outworkers Premises	1	—	—	—	—

SAMPLING									
Water	...	...	...	...	14	—	—	—	—
Milk	...	...	...	...	106	—	—	—	—
Orange Juice	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Sewage	...	...	...	...	14	—	—	—	—
Samples in connection with food poisoning...	...	...	...	...	6	—	—	—	—
Ice-cream	...	...	...	...	48	—	—	—	—
TOTAL					7842	503	424	61	37

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

Part 1 of the Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors) :

Premises	No. on Register	No. of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories without Mechanical Power...	8	—	—	—
Factories with Mechanical Power	116	81	—	—
Other Premises	110	4	—	—
TOTAL	234	85	—	—

2. Cases in which defects were found :

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences :					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	3	—	3	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	1	—	1	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	9	3	—	—	—
TOTAL	9	7	—	5	—

Outwork :

List required by Section 110 was received relating to one out-worker engaged in making wearing apparel.

New Industries :

A light industrial establishment connected with agriculture commenced operation during the year at Tarporley.

During the year, 14 factories were surveyed under Section 34 of the Factories Act, 1937, for the purpose of checking Means of Escape in Case of Fire. These inspections were made in company with the Fire Prevention Officer of the Cheshire County Fire Brigade. As a result, 8 notices were served against the owners of factories requiring works to be carried out, and so far this year in two cases these were complied with and Certificates issued.

The Fire Prevention Officer took this opportunity of advising those factories concerned in the installation of Fire Alarm Systems.

At the same time, any contravention of Petrol Storage Regulations were brought to the notice of the surveyor

Arrangements have been made for all factories to be visited bi-annually by Council's Officers and the Fire Prevention Officer.

SECTION D

HOUSING

New Houses :

186 new houses, 92 by the Council and 94 by private enterprise, were completed during the year 1956.

The parishes in which the houses have been erected are as shown in the following schedule :

Parishes	Council Houses	Private Houses
Acton	—	3
Anderton	—	2
Barnton	28	1
Byley	—	1
Comberbatch	—	4
Crowton	—	1
Cuddington	—	52
Davenham	2	1
Delamere	—	8
Hartford	—	3
Little Leigh	—	1
Marston	4	—
Marton	—	7
Moulton	25	—
Nether Peover	—	2
Oakmere	10	—
Rudheath	23	2
Stanthorne	—	1
Utkinton	—	1
Weaverham	—	4
TOTALS	92	94

During the year, progress was made in connection with proposals of the Council to erect further houses on the sites at : Wincham for 2 houses ; Utkinton 4 ; Tarporley 16 ; Rushton 6 ; Barnton 12 ; and Marston 12. Difficulties regarding sites held up development proposals for 8 at Cuddington, 4 at Hartford and 2 at Crowton. An alternative site at Barnton was investigated and it is expected that the Council will in due course receive approval to the development of this alternative site off Oakwood Lane.

Unfit Houses :

During the year, 58 houses were demolished, 20 by statutory action and 38 by agreement. Details of the properties concerned are as follows :

By Statutory Action :	No. of persons rehoused as a result	
	Adults	Children
Cottage, Eaton Village, Rushton (Lightfoot)	2	—
Cottage, Eaton Village Rushton (Evans) ...	2	—
Cottage, Eaton Village, Rushton (Howard)	1	—
Crows Nest Lane Cottage, Comberbach ...	—	—
Crows Nest Lane Cottage, Comberbach ...	—	—
Pump House, Nether Peover	2	—
84 Chapel Street, Wincham	—	—
28 Ollershaw Lane, Marston	—	—
30 Ollershaw Lane, Marston	3	—
1 School Bungalows, Marston	3	1
2 School Bungalows, Marston	1	1
Cottage, Eaton Village, Rushton (Walker)	1	—
Cottage, Eaton Village, Rushton (Johnson)	2	1
17 Tunnel Road, Barnton	3	1
Rock Cottage, Eaton, Rushton (Wrench)...	—	—
Cottage, Lightfoot Lane, Rushton (Johnson)	1	—
302 Manchester Road, Lostock	2	1
304 Manchester Road, Lostock	2	2
1 Hilltop Cottages, Anderton	2	—
2 Hilltop Cottages, Anderton	—	—

By Agreement :

Delamere Park...	36
Cuddington ...	2 (Two Cottages, New Park, Sandiway)

Improvement Grants.

Housing Improvement and Conversion—Housing Act, 1949 :

During 1956 the availability of grants for carrying out conversions and improving older type of property was made much more use of.

Applications submitted during the year—

(1)	No. of applications received	...	55
(2)	No. of applications approved	...	53
(3)	No. of applications withdrawn	...	1
(4)	No. of applications where work has been completed	... ..	27
(5)	Expenditure involved :		
	(a) approved expenditure		
	ranking for grant	£29,689	19 8
	(b) Total grant paid during year	£7,272	0 10

SECTION E

INSPECTION and SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Food and Drugs Act, 1955 :

The following gives particulars of premises in the area engaged in the handling, preparation or sale of food.

Grocers (including sweet shops)	...	125
Greengrocers and Fishmongers	...	15
Butchers	... ..	25
Bakehouses	... ..	17
Licensed Premises	... ..	62
Food Preparing Premises (including school and factory canteens and hospitals)	... ..	40
Fried Fish Shops	... ..	12
Restaurants and Cafes	... ..	14
		<hr/> 310 <hr/>

The number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, are as follows :

Ice-cream Manufacturers	... ..	1
Ice-cream Dealers	... ..	70
Premises used for the manufacture of sausages or meat pies, etc.	... ..	25
		<hr/> 96 <hr/>

There are 20 Dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations. During the year, 106 samples of milk were submitted to the Laboratory, with the following results :

Grade	Methylene Blue Test		Phosphatase Test	
	Satis.	Unsatis.	Satis.	Unsatis.
Ungraded ...	—	—	—	—
Tuberculin Tested	12	3	—	—
Pasteurised ...	66	1	67	—
T.T. Pasteurised	19	1	19	1
Sterilised Milk ... 4 samples passed the Turbidity Test				

14 samples were submitted to the Laboratory for examination for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli, all with negative results.

The Licences held under the Milk (Special Designations) Order for the year include :

Authorising dealers to use the special designation “ Tuberculin Tested ”:

- (a) In respect of the sale of bottled milk only 17
- (b) In respect of licence to bottle ... 4

Authorising dealers to use the special designation “ Pasteurised ”:

- (a) In respect of the sale of bottled milk only 18
- (b) In respect of licence to bottle ... 3

Authorising dealers to use the special designation “ Sterilised ”:

- In respect of the sale of bottled milk only ... 9
- Supplementary licences authorising the use of the special designation “ Pasteurised ” ... 16
- Supplementary licences authorising the use of the special designation “ Tuberculin Tested ” 16
- Supplementary licences authorising the use of the special designation “ Sterilised ” ... 9

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Veterinary Officers were notified of and dealt with tuberculosis occurring in 37 herds.

The number of inspections of registered food premises and other food establishments carried out during the year were as follows :

Registered Food Premises	...	...	104
Other Food Establishments	...	...	553
			657

Ice-cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947/52 ;

Periodic visits have been carried out at the premises of the manufacturer of ice-cream in the area, and a high standard of hygiene was observed. All the vans operating from these premises have been fitted with hot and cold water and washbowls. This is a marked improvement.

The Department took 48 samples of ice-cream during the year with the following results :

48 Hot Mix	...	Grade 1	—	37
		Grade 2	—	9
		Grade 3	—	2
		Grade 4	—	nil

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 :

The coming into force of the above Regulations entailed a considerable amount of work by the Public Health Department. The primary approach has been in connection with licensed premises, school canteens and the larger food establishments. Representatives of all the Brewery Companies have been interviewed and the necessary improvements required under the Regulations have been explained. The same procedure has been applied to the individual food premises and considerable co-operation has been obtained from owners and food handlers.

A survey of all Council owned shops on Council estates has been carried out and works of improvement are now in progress to satisfy the requirements of the Regulations.

Oulton Park Racing Circuit :

During the year, inspection of catering facilities and sanitary accommodation have been carried out at all meetings attended by the public. Considerable improvement in the general standard of hygiene was observed and can be tabulated as follows :

1. The provision of sinks and a supply of hot and cold water at all catering points ; the greater use of cartons for liquid refreshment ; and the wrapping of sandwiches, etc.
2. The provision of wooden or corrugated iron structures for sanitary accommodation and the use of chemical sanitation, suitably attended by personnel at all meetings. The Department operated a cleansing service after each event.

Meat :

During the year, 11 slaughterhouse licences were renewed. 1441 visits were paid to these slaughterhouses. A total of 17,098 carcasses were examined and 27,761 lbs. of meat were condemned.

**Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned
in part or in whole**

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1639	1689	201	9742	3827
Number inspected	1639	1689	201	9742	3827
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	5	3	3	12
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	100	212	5	79	39
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	6.1	12.55	2.49	.81	1.02
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	13	1	—	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	58	366	1	—	25
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	3.54	21.67	.5	—	.65
<i>Cysticercosis:</i>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

Distribution of diseases :

Cows—Tuberculosis	13
Septicaemia	1
Septicaemia and Dropsy	1
Fever	2
Septic Metritis	1
Pigs—Tuberculosis	2
Moribund	1
Septic Peritonitis	2
Swine Erysipelas	1
Septicaemia	1
Fever	2
Multiple Bruising	3
Septic Pneumonia	1
Dropsy and Nephritis	1
Calves—Pyæmia	1
Moribund	2
*Congential Tuberculosis	1
Sheep—Moribund	1
Pregnancy Toxaemia	2

- * This case of Congential Tuberculosis was notified to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries who were able to trace down the cow affected and this was slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

Disposal of Condemned Meat :

Although the colouring of condemned meat can no longer be required under the Livestock (Restriction of Slaughtering) Order, 1940, all occupiers of slaughterhouses have agreed to the staining of condemned meat before leaving the premises.

Meat so condemned is collected from the slaughterhouse by contractors who sign an undertaking that the meat shall not be used for human consumption. This meat is processed by these contractors for use as fertilisers, etc.

The Department has had periodic liaison with Health Departments of Authorities from which the contractors operate and the movement of condemned meat and carcasses is kept under close observation.

Byelaws :

On May 18th, 1956, the Council resolved that Byelaws relating to private slaughterhouses under Section 68 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, in accordance with the Model Byelaws, Series III issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, be prepared for sealing by the Council and for submission to the Ministry for confirmation.

Slaughter of Animals Act ;

43 suspected cases of Anthrax were reported under this Act, none of which was confirmed by the Ministry of Agriculture.

1 case of Swine Fever was confirmed and appropriate action taken.

Other Foods :

The following is a summary of other foods condemned during the year :

47 lbs. Butter	55 lbs. Egg Powder
72 lbs. Margarine	14 lbs. Dried Apricots
24 lbs. Lard	8 bags Poultry Food
2 pkts. Cheese	1 tin Potato Crisps
2 doz. " Chickletts " (5½ lbs.)	16 tins Fruit
4 doz. Fish Cakes	

In addition, the following, based upon a statement by the County Council Weights and Measures Inspectors, is a summary of other samples obtained in the Northwich Rural District during the year 1956 :—

Nature of Sample				Number obtained	Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality
Blancmange Powders	...	...	...	1	—
Camphorated Oil	...	...	...	1	—
Chocolate Drops	...	...	...	1	—
Chicken (Minced)	...	...	...	1	—
Cheese Spread	...	...	...	2	—
Gin	...	...	...	1	—
Glauber's Salt	...	...	...	1	—
Glucose Tablets	...	...	...	1	—
Glycerine	...	...	...	1	—
Gravy Browning	...	...	...	1	—
Herbs (mixed)	...	...	...	1	—
Ice Cream	...	...	...	1	—
Iodine (Tincture of)	...	...	...	1	—
Liquorice Powder	...	...	...	1	—
Milk (fresh)	...	...	...	37	1*
Mint (Garden) (in vinegar)	...	...	...	1	—
Olive Oil	...	...	...	1	—
Orange Drink	...	...	...	1	—
Pearl Barley	...	...	...	1	—
Peas (Processed)	...	...	...	1	—
Pepper (ground white)	...	...	...	1	—
Soda (Bicarbonate of)	...	...	...	1	—
Sweets (Mint Cubes)	...	...	...	1	—
Sweets (Lollies)	...	...	...	1	—
Tuna (tinned)	...	...	...	1	—
TOTAL				62	1

* Particulars of sample not up to standard :

<i>Sample</i>	<i>Result of Analysis</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Milk	Genuine but abnormal milk deficient in solids-not-fat to the extent of 2.3%	No Action

SECTION F

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases

(1) The incidence of Infectious Diseases, with the notable exception of measles, was low, as may be gathered from the following table :

**Incidence of Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)
during the Year 1956**

<i>Diseases</i>	<i>Total Cases Notified</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Hospital</i>
Scarlet Fever	18	10
Whooping Cough	62	—
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	3	3
Measles	112	—
Pneumonia	3	—
Dysentery	1	1
Erysipelas	1	—
Food Poisoning	—	—

The cases requiring Hospital treatment, as notified above, were admitted to the under-mentioned Hospitals :

Crewe Isolation Hospital	4 patients
Monsall Isolation Hospital	3 patients
Macclesfield Isolation Hospital	1 patient
Warrington Isolation Hospital	5 patients
Chester City Hospital	1 patient

Copies of reports on all pathological specimens submitted by the local doctors to the Manchester Public Health Laboratory are received by me. These are of great value in that immediate preventive measures can be put in hand by the Health Department where needed.

(2) Tuberculosis :

The table below details the ages of both new cases and deaths from both forms of Tuberculosis.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 years	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 years	1	—	6	3	—	—	—	—
15—25 years	1	2	1	1	—	—	—	—
25—35 years	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 years	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
45—55 years	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—65 years	1	2	—	—	2	1	—	—
65 and upwards... ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	8	7	8	4	4	1	—	—

During 1956, 15 cases were admitted to and 19 discharged from Sanatoria.

Number of patients on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the years :

1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
238	244	229	229	232	230	190	218	199	202	183	192

B.C.G. Protection against Tuberculosis :

In addition to the B.C.G. protection against tuberculosis as carried out at the local Chest Clinic on actual contacts to cases of tuberculosis and the vaccination of new-born babies at the St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester, the parents of school children of the 12—13 years age group in the area have been offered this new form of protective treatment. The response to date on the part of the parents to take advantage of this treatment for their children has been good, as may be gathered from the following :

No. of Consents received ...	170
No. tested and found to need the vaccination ...	90

(3) Mass Radiography :

The Unit based upon Stockport last visited the area in November, 1956. This was a special visit for the purpose of X-raying those 12—13 year old children in the school B.C.G. scheme who were found to be "Mantoux Positive". The response was most satisfactory.

As it is almost two years since the Unit visited this area to offer their services to members of the general public, it is hoped a further visit for this purpose can be arranged at an early date.

(4) Inspection of Schools :

During the year, all schools in the Council's area were inspected by the Public Health Staff, with particular regard to :

- (a) Canteens
- (b) Washing Facilities
- (c) Sanitary accommodation
- (d) Refuse Removal

(5) Disinfestation and Disinfection of Premises :

The disinfection of 177 premises was carried out during the year, as follows :

For vermin (using D.D.T. & "Gammexane")	139 houses
For Tuberculosis	
(plus steam disinfection of bedding)	9 houses
For Infectious Diseases ...	29 houses
	<hr/>
	177 houses

(6) Children's Summer Camp :

In connection with a Holiday Camp sponsored by a Local industry the medical inspection of some 173 mid-Cheshire school children was arranged for prior to their departure to a North Wales Camp from May 18th to May 25th, 1956. The majority of these children were residents of the Northwich Rural District.

I would like to say, in closing this report, how much I appreciate the help I have received from the Members of the Council and Officials in dealing with the various matters which have arisen during the year.

W. S. SLATER, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health

July, 1957.
Hartford Hill,
Darwin Street,
NORTHWICH,
Cheshire.

